

Saxon announces university's admission policy to maintain affirmative consideration of minority race

February 22, 1977

BERKELEY-- University of California President David S. Saxon today (February 22) advised the nine UC campus chancellors that because the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to review the Bakke case, admission criteria may continue to include "affirmative consideration of minority race or ethnic origin where appropriate."

In advising chancellors, Saxon pointed out that it is not yet known when the U.S. Supreme Court will decide the case. "It appears," he said, "that oral arguments will be held in the next term of the Court which begins in October, with a decision to be announced sometime thereafter."

The Court case involves a Caucasian, Allan Bakke, who applied for admission to the UC Davis School of Medicine in 1973 and 1974. Bakke was denied admission both times, and claimed that he was the victim of reverse discrimination, a claim the California Supreme Court upheld.

The California Court ruling has been held in abeyance by the issuance of a stay order by the U.S. Supreme Court which now will remain in effect until final disposition of the case.

The U.S. Supreme Court's acceptance of UC's appeal of the California decision means that current admissions criteria and procedures can continue to be used, including any that give weight to minority race or ethnic origin.

In a public statement, Saxon said he welcomed the court's decision, pointing out that "few issues of modern times are more in need of the authoritative resolution that only the Supreme Court of the United States can supply."

He noted that "education is the chief instrument in our society for accomplishing equality," and that UC will pursue the case "with unrelenting vigor and determination, for the best professional education must remain available in fact to those of every race, creed, sex and color." (Full text of President Saxon's statement attached)

For information contact: Paul W. West, 452-3120 STATEMENT BY UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESIDENT DAVID S. SAXON I welcome the decision of the Supreme Court to review the opinion of the California Supreme Court in Bakke v. Regents of the University of California. Few issues of modern times are more in need of the authoritative resolution that only the Supreme Court of the United States can supply. This nation has yet to fulfill the promise in the Declaration of Independence of equal opportunity for all. The special admission program of the University of California Medical School at Davis is an effort to confront the problems created by a society that tolerated human slavery but little more than 100 years ago. Education is the chief instrument in our society for accomplishing equality. We will pursue our case before the highest court with unrelenting vigor and determination, for the best professional education must remain available in fact to those of every race, creed, sex and color.

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